iFAST: The International Forum on Advanced Environmental Sciences and Technology

A series of distinguished seminars by eminent scientists

8 p.m. CDT; 9 p.m. EDT; Oct. 14, 1 a.m. GMT; 9 a.m. Beijing

Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2021

Curtis Suttle
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https://www.eoas.ubc.ca/people/curtissuttle

C. Suttle completed his bachelor of science degree (with honors) and doctoral degrees in zoology and botany, respectively, at the University of British Columbia before moving to Stony Brook University as the Coastal Marine Scholar, and then to the Marine Sciences Institute at the University of Texas at Austin, where he was an associate professor. In 1996 he returned to UBC, where he is a professor in the Departments of Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences, Botany and Microbiology & Immunology, as well as the Institute for the Oceans & Fisheries. Suttle's research focuses on viruses, their diversity, evolution and function in the global system, with an emphasis on the oceans. As a frequently invited speaker at universities and international symposia, as well as a commentator in print, video and television, he makes a persuasive case that viruses encompass much of the genetic diversity on Earth and are major drivers of global biogeochemical cycles. His work has helped shift the paradigm from viruses being enemies and agents of death, to the perspective that viruses are essential to life on Earth. His scholarship has been recognized by being appointed as a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, American Academy of Microbiology and the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography, as well as a senior fellow of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research and a Distinguished University Scholar; he is a recipient of the A.G. Huntsman, Timothy R. Parsons and G. Evelyn Hutchinson Medals in Marine Science.

Visioning the Virosphere

Viruses are by far the most abundant lifeform on Earth, encompass much of its biodiversity, and are major players in regulating populations and catalyzing global biogeochemical cycles. Without doubt, viruses are critical elements contributing to and helping maintain biodiversity and ecosystem function; yet our knowledge of the viruses populating the virosphere and quantitative information on their ecosystem effects remain scant. Here, I take a brief stroll through the virosphere, and outline some of our work that tries to unravel the nature and impact of viruses in ocean ecosystems.

INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL GENOMICS
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

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